

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
NSC-05 DODE-00 /070 W  
-----062615 191910Z /46

P R 191610Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6912  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0935

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GW, UR  
SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING TIDBITS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST  
IN EVALUATING THE CURIOUS TURN OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT  
TO BONN:

-- OUR FRG EMBASSY COLLEAGUES HAVE INFORMED US THAT  
THE PRESS RELEASE IN BONN WHICH STATED THAT THE VISIT OF  
BREZHNEV WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED FEBRUARY 16-19  
WAS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO THEM. THE FRB AMBASSADOR  
HERE WAS LED TO BELIEVE (BY BONDARENKO ON JAN. 11) THAT  
SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN WOULD BE CALLING ON SCHMIDT  
VERY SOON TO DISCUSS TIMING OF THE VISIT. AS A RESULT  
THE EMBASSY HERE WAS LOOKING FOR PRELIMINARY SIGNALS  
IN A FALIN CONVERSATION WITH VAN WELL JAN. 13.  
BUT NOTHING CAME FROM THE MEETING. THEY WERE  
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UNAWARE OF ANY PREVIOUS INDICATION THAT DATES  
HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

-- WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE SAME SOURCES THAT  
FALIN BROUGHT WITH HIM TO THE MEETING WITH SCHMIDT  
ON JAN. 17 A LETTER FROM BREZHNEV IN WHICH BREZHNEV  
SAID THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO COME TO BONN ON THOSE

DATES BUT COULD NOT DO SO ON THE ADVICE OF HIS DOCTORS. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE DATES MENTIONED WERE A SURPRISE TO THE CHANCELLOR AS THEY WERE TO THE EMBASSY HERE.

-- PRAVDA JAN. 19 HAS A LONG ARTICLE ON THE FRG WHICH MENTIONS THE "COMING VISIT" OF BREZHNEV AND THAT SCHMIDT WAS EXPECTING THAT THE VISIT WOULD GIVE "NEW IMPULSE" NOT ONLY TO SOVIET-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS, BUT TO DETENTE AND PEACE IN EUROPE. THIS LANGUAGE IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF NEW TIMES (NO. 3, JAN. 13) TO DESCRIBE THE VISIT, AND IT SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIET EDITORS WERE NOT ANTICIPATING THE JAN. 18 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FRG.

-- FRG EMBASSY SUGGESTS -- AND WE CONCUR -- THAT POSTPONEMENT WILL BE MORE THAN JUST A FEW WEEKS OR EVENTS WOULD HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT COURSE, I.E., NO LETTER OR NO ANNOUNCEMENT.

-- THE SOVIET DECISION TO GIVE BREZHNEV'S HEALTH AS THE REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT IS QUITE UNUSUAL AND SUGGESTS THAT BREZHNEV'S ILLNESS MAY BE MORE SERIOUS THAN JUST THE FLU.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING TIDBITS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST IN EVALUATING THE CURIOUS TURN OF EVENTS CONCERNIN  
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**Review Markings:**  
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